

Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 24 January 2013	AGENDA ITEM NO: 7
Report title: Bicester Development Update	
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report seeks to provide an update for Board Members current proposals and which are likely to be of relevance to the Board. The report is divided into the following sections to cover the wide range of activity currently taking place in the town;
- Policy Development
 - Development Proposals
 - Other matters

2. Policy Development

2.1 Local Policy

- 2.1.1 The planning act requires the determination of planning applications to be in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The development plan is therefore a key document in guiding development within the area it covers. The development plan for Bicester currently comprises of the South East Plan and the adopted Cherwell Local Plan. The South East Plan, will go when regional spatial strategies are withdrawn. The adopted local plan is dated and therefore carries limited weight and importantly sites identified for development have now largely been developed. It is therefore important that a replacement plan is progressed and adopted as soon as possible.
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Submission Draft Cherwell Local Plan, which will replace the current adopted plan, and the Bicester Master Plan have been subject to public consultation. An update report was taken to Cherwell District Council's Executive in December 2012. Further work is now underway in completing the evidence base for the emerging plan and considering the representations made. The emerging plan will be reported back to the Cherwell District Council for consideration of the representations and any amendments to the plan before it is published as a submission draft and progresses to an examination. It is anticipated the report will be considered in March 2013.

3. Development Proposals

3.1 Current Development Proposals

- 3.1.1 This section of the report aims to provide the Board with an overview the current position on the most significant development proposals affecting the town. The attached appendix to the report identifies the major schemes that have planning permission, those where a planning

application has been submitted and finally those where there has been public consultation or screening or scoping for environmental impact assessment.

4 Other Matters

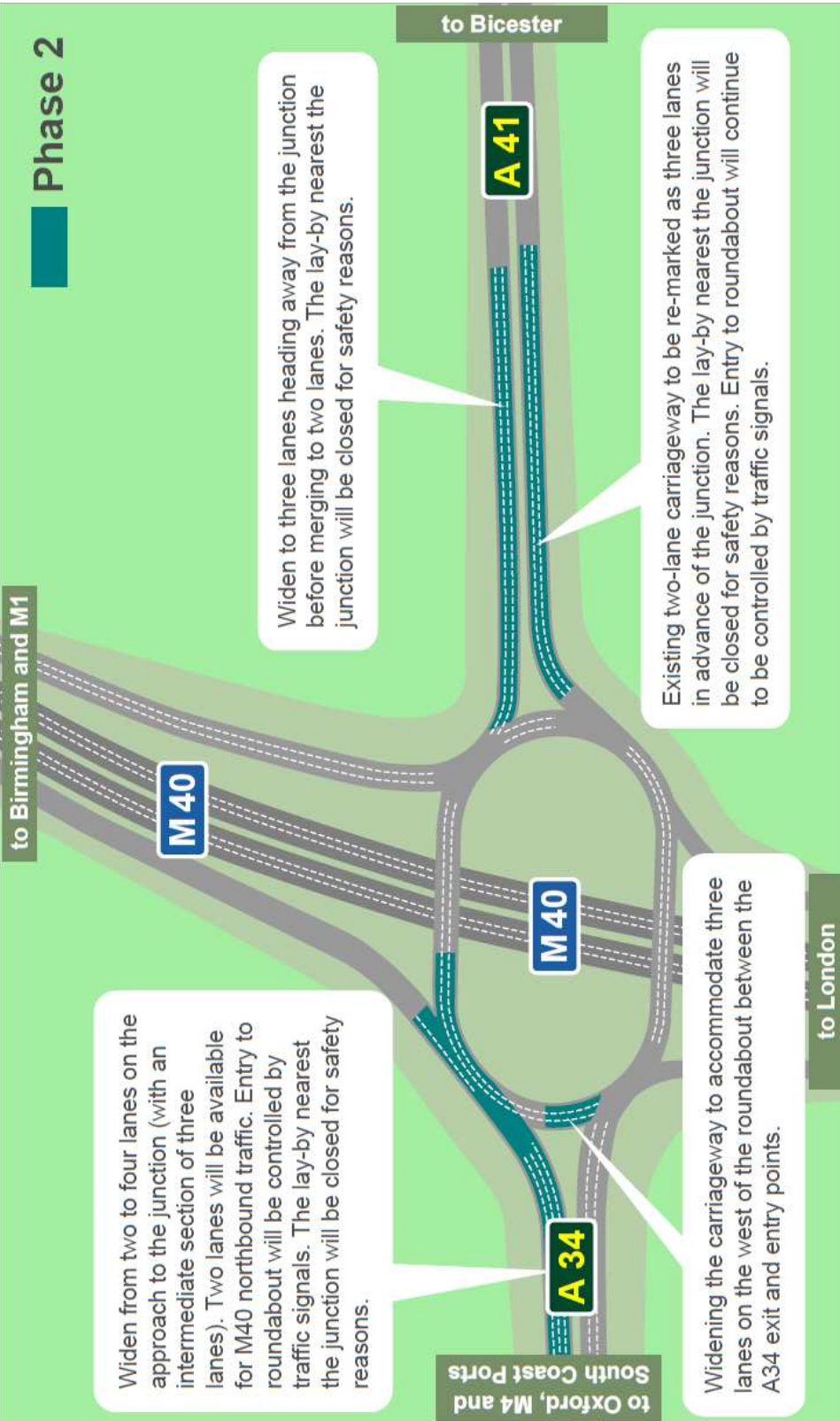
4.1 Town Centre Access Improvements

- 4.1.1 These works are being carried out in connection with the town centre redevelopment. Oxfordshire County Council has provided the following update.
- 4.1.2 Work was completed before Christmas on Queens Avenue to provide bus lay-bys and a right-turn lane into Bicester Community College.
- 4.1.3 Work is now focussed on the junction of Queens Avenue, Field Street and St John's Street to replace the signalised junction with a mini roundabout. Currently, three-way temporary traffic lights are operating at this junction and the performance is constantly being monitored to optimise the capacity. Overnight road closures will be required on Queens Avenue and St John's Street from 25 to 27 February to accommodate resurfacing works. Access will be maintained for properties affected at all times and letters will be sent to adjacent frontages in due course.
- 4.1.4 The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of May 2013 and, if this remains the case, the changeover from one-way operation of St John's Street to two-way and the closure of North Street from the Banbury Road/Buckingham Road roundabout will take place on the evening of 31 March 2013. Extensive publicity will be communicated to residents and businesses in the weeks leading up to the changeover.

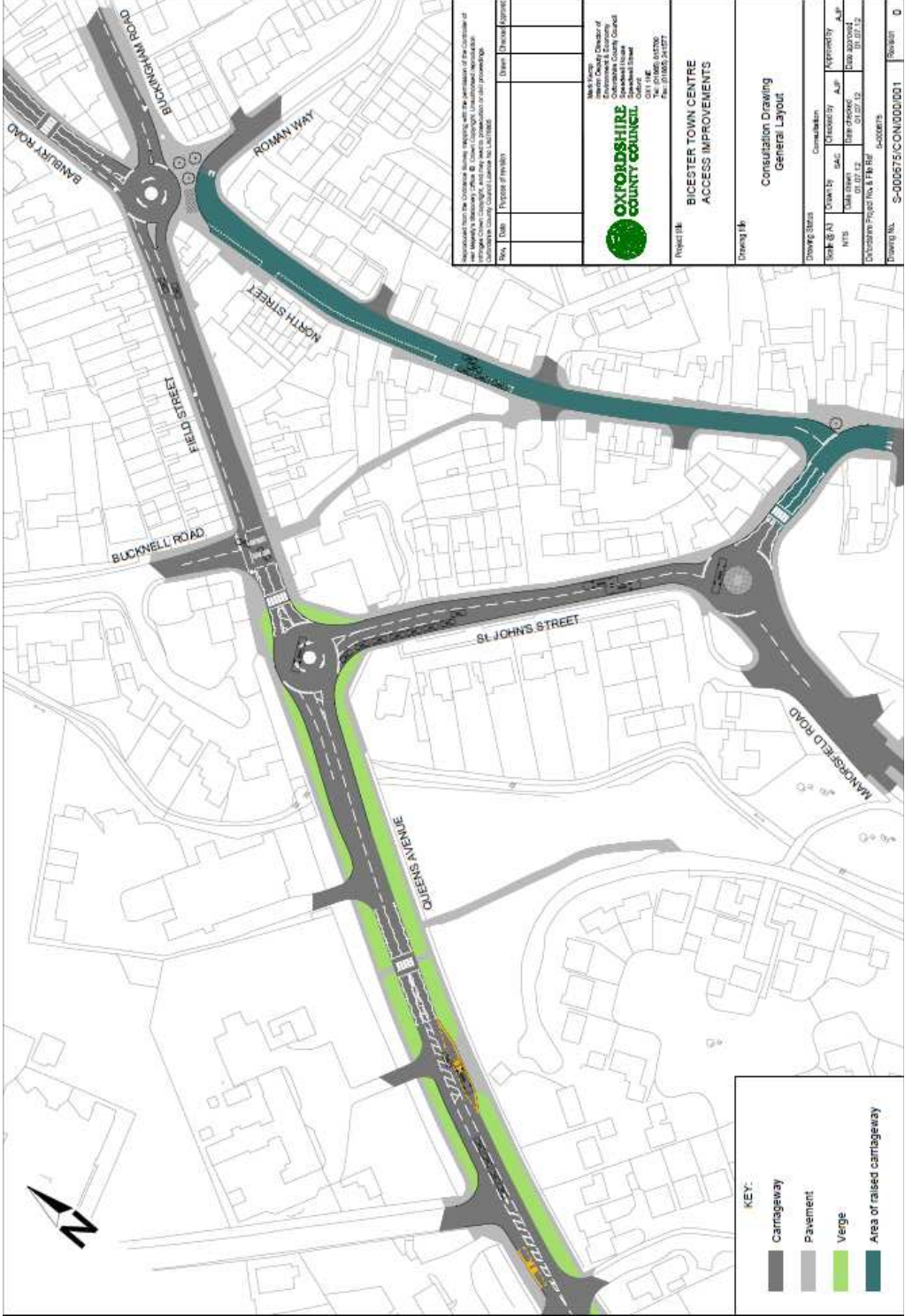
5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the report

Phase 2



Annex 2: Bicester Town Centre Access Improvements



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